AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A light system, comprising:

a plurality of conduits each having an at least partially transparent outer surface and each being configured to be connected together in a modular fashion to form an assembly, and

a plurality of light engines spaced apart from each other within the assembly, wherein at least one light engine of the plurality of light engines is configured to generate light within and along a length of at least one conduit of the assembly, such that at least some of the light passes through the outer surface of the at least one conduit along the length of and around a perimeter of the at least one conduit;

wherein the at least one light engine includes at least one light source and at least one controller to control the at least one light source, such that the light has at least one controllable characteristic.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the characteristic is selected from the group consisting of a color, an intensity, a saturation, and a color temperature of the light.

7. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the controller includes an interface.

8. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the light source comprises an LED.

9. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the light source comprises a plurality

of LEDs of different colors.

10. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the light source comprises LEDs configured such that the light from the light engine comprises different color temperatures of white light.

11. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the light engine operates in a white color mode at some times and in a non-white color mode at other times.

12. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 9, wherein the light is white light produced by combining radiation generated by more than one of the plurality of LEDs, and each LED of the plurality of LEDs is selected from the group consisting of red, green, yellow, blue, amber, white, and orange LEDs.

13. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 12, wherein a color temperature of the white light is adjusted by mixing different amounts of the radiation from the more than one of the plurality of LEDs.

14. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the controller is a processor.

15. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the assembly is configured such that the light passes substantially unobstructed from a first inner portion of one conduit of the assembly to an adjacent inner portion of an adjacent conduit of the assembly.

16. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the at least one conduit of the plurality of conduits is made of an elastic material suitable for receiving and retransmitting the light.

17. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is a flexible conduit.

18. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, at least one of the plurality of conduits is transparent.

19. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is semi-opaque.

20. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is translucent.

21. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is reflective.

22. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is refractive.

23. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is a transparent elastic material.

24. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is elastomeric vinyl acetate.

25. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a polymer, polyurethane, PVC material, rubber, plastic, a metal, and an alloy.

26. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is made from a hybrid of a plurality of materials.

27. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is filled with a fluid.

28. (Original) A system of claim 27, wherein the fluid is a gas.

29. (Original) A system of claim 27, wherein the fluid is a liquid.

30. (Original) A system of claim 27, wherein the fluid is a vapor.

31. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 27, wherein the fluid transmits the light.

32. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 27, wherein the fluid refracts the light.

33. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 27, wherein the fluid contains particles that reflect the light.

34. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 27, wherein the fluid contains particles that refract the light.

35. (Currently Amended) A lighting system, comprising:

an elastomeric conduit having an at least partially transparent outer surface, a first end, and a second end; and

at least one light engine having a light source and a ~~control system~~ controller and being disposed proximate to at least one of the first end and the second end of the conduit, and the at least one light engine being configured to generate light within and along a length of the conduit, such that at least some of the light passes through the outer surface along the length of and around a perimeter of the conduit;

wherein the light source comprises LEDs selected from the group consisting of red, green, blue, amber, white, orange, and UV LEDs;

wherein the light engine is an addressable light engine.

36. (Original) A system of claim 35, wherein the light source is configured in a linear configuration.

37. (Original) A system of claim 35, wherein the light source is configured as an array.

38. (Original) A system of claim 35, wherein the light source is configured in a curvilinear configuration.

39. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the light source includes a plurality of LEDs arranged into at least one group.

40. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 39, wherein each LED of the at least one group generates radiation having a different wavelength than each other LED of the at least one group.

41. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 39, wherein the group includes a triad of LEDs.

42. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 39, wherein the group includes a quadruplet of LEDs.

43. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 39, wherein the group includes a quintuplet of LEDs.

44. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 39, wherein the plurality of LEDs is configured to fit a lighting fixture.

45. (Original) A system of claim 44, wherein the lighting fixture is configured to resemble at least one of an incandescent fixture, a halogen fixture and a fluorescent fixture.

46. (Previously Presented) A lighting system, comprising:

an elastomeric conduit having an at least partially transparent outer surface, a first end, and a second end;

at least one light engine having a light source and a controller and being disposed proximate to at least one of the first end and the second end of the conduit, and the at least one light engine being configured to generate light within and along a length of the conduit, such that at least some of the light passes through the outer surface along the length of and around a perimeter of the conduit;

wherein the light source comprises LEDs selected from the group consisting of red, green, blue, amber, white, orange, and UV LEDs; and

an interface for delivering a control signal to the controller.

47. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 46, wherein the interface includes at least one of a wire, a cable, a network, a bus, a circuit, and a wireless interface.

48. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 47, wherein the interface comprises at least one of a user interface, a power-cycle-based interface, a general purpose computer interface, a keyboard, a mouse, a voice- or image-recognition interface, a programming interface, a software authoring tool interface, a light show player interface, a touchpad interface, a wireless interface, an interface for a conventional lighting system, an entertainment system interface, a communications system interface, a maintenance system interface, and a navigation system interface.

49. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, further comprising a mounting surface in proximity to the light engine.

50. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 49, wherein the conduit is attached to the mounting surface by an attachment facility.

51. (Original) A system of claim 50, wherein the attachment facility is at least one of a fastener,

a screw, a clip and a bolt.

52. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 50, wherein the attachment facility is a standoff mechanism for holding the conduit a fixed distance from the mounting surface.

53. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 49, wherein the mounting surface is a surface of a sign.

54. (Original) A system of claim 35, further comprising a mounting facility for the conduit.

55. (Original) A system of claim 54, wherein the mounting facility serves as a light shield.

56. (Original) A system of claim 54, wherein the mounting facility rests on a light pipe.

57. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 56, wherein the light pipe collects the light generated by the light engine and delivers the light into the conduit.

58. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the light engine is configured to resemble a halogen lamp.

59. (Original) A system of claim 58, wherein the light engine is an MR-16 fixture.

60. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 58, wherein the light engine is configured to be suitable for insertion into a conventional halogen socket.

61. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 56, wherein the light pipe guides the light into a receiving portion of the conduit, so that the conduit glows with a color of the light from the light engine.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the controller controls the light source such that a color of the light varies over time to produce a dynamic lighting effect.

64. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the controller includes a user interface.

65. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the controller includes a data facility.

66. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the controller includes a communication facility.

67. (Original) A system of claim 66, wherein the communication facility comprises a network.

68. (Original) A system of claim 66, wherein the communication facility comprises a wireless facility.

69. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the controller includes an algorithm facility.

70. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the controller is a general purpose computer.

71. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the controller is integrated with other system elements in an environment of the light engine.

72. (Original) A system of claim 71, wherein the other system elements are selected from the group consisting of a maintenance system, an entertainment system, a sound system, a navigation system, and a security system.

73. (Original) A system of claim 35, wherein the light engine includes a processor.

74. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 73, wherein the processor is selected from the group consisting of a microprocessor, a microcontroller, a circuit, an application specific integrated circuit, a microchip, a chip residing on a circuit board, a chipset, a circuit board, a programmable digital signal processor, a biological circuit, a programmable gate array, a programmable array logic device, a programmable logic device, a digital signal processor, an analog-to-digital converter, a digital-to-analog converter, discrete circuitry, passive analog components, active analog components, a resistor, a capacitor, an inductor, a transistor, an operational amplifiers, a discrete digital component, a shift register, and a latch.

75. (Previously Presented) A lighting system, comprising:

an elastomeric conduit having an at least partially transparent outer surface, a first end, and a second end; and

at least one light engine having a light source and a controller and being disposed proximate to at least one of the first end and the second end of the conduit, and the at least one light engine being configured to generate light within and along a length of the conduit, such that at least some of the light passes through the outer surface along the length of and around a perimeter of the conduit;

wherein the light source comprises LEDs selected from the group consisting of red, green, blue, amber, white, orange, and UV LEDs;

wherein the controller includes a data facility for storing data for the light engine.

76. (Original) A system of claim 75, wherein the data facility comprises at least one of a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, an electronically erasable programmable read-only memory, a random access memory, a dynamic random access memory, a double data rate

random access memory, a Rambus direct random access memory, and a flash memory.

77. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 75, wherein the data facility is at least one of a general purpose computer system, a RAM, a ROM, a hard disk memory, a diskette, a zip drive, a jump drive, a database, a SQL database, a TCL database, an Oracle database, an Access database, a data facility of an entertainment system, a data facility of a maintenance system, a data facility of a safety system and a combination of more than one type of data facility.

78. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 75, wherein the data for the light engine resides in a plurality of systems.

79. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 78, wherein at least one first system of the plurality of systems is a safety system and at least one second system of the plurality of systems is an entertainment system.

80. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 78, wherein at least first system of the plurality of systems is a lighting control system and at least one second system of the plurality of systems is an entertainment system.

81. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, further comprising a communication facility, wherein the communication facility comprises at least one of a wire-based facility, a wireless facility, a network, an interface card, a circuit, a router, a switch, a software interface, a wire, a cable, a connector, an RF facility, an IR facility, a serial port, a parallel port, a USB facility, a firewire facility, a copper wire, a modem, a Bluetooth facility, an 802.11 facility, a DSL modem, an antenna, a satellite communications facility, and a telecommunications facility.

82. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the controller is connected to the light source by a bus that provides two-way communication between the control system and the light source.

83. (Canceled)

84. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the conduit comprises modular sub-elements that can be fitted together to form shapes.

85. (Original) A system of claim 84, wherein the sub-elements are selected from the group consisting of V-shaped elements, L-shaped elements, T-shaped elements, curved elements, and straight elements.

86. (Original) A system of claim 84, wherein the sub-elements are fitted together in combinations.

87. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 84, wherein the sub-elements are provided in a kit with the at least one light engine.

88. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 84, wherein a user can shape the sub-elements into a desired shape.

89. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the lighting system includes a plurality of light engines.

90. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 89, wherein the plurality of light engines are provided with a communication facility.

91. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 89, wherein the plurality of light engines are configured so as to generate the light in synchronous fashion.

92. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 89, wherein the plurality of light engines change

colors in concert.

93. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, wherein the lighting system includes two light engines respectively disposed proximate to the first end and the second end.

94. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 89, wherein the plurality of light engines communicate via a flexible facility selected from the group consisting of a flexible wire, a bus, and a cable.

95. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 94, wherein the flexible facility serves as a semi-rigid element for holding the conduit in a selected configuration.

96. (Original) A system of claim 89, further comprising a semi-rigid element.

97. (Original) A system of claim 96, wherein the semi-rigid element is made of a material selected from the group consisting of a metal, a polymer, and a plastic.

98. (Original) A system of claim 96, wherein the semi-rigid element holds shape when bent.

99. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 89, wherein at least one light engine of the plurality of light engines has an optical receiver facility for receiving optical data and an optical modulator facility for modulating a portion of the light, so that the a first light engine of the plurality of light engines communicates to at least one second light engine of the plurality of light engines.

100. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 99, wherein the first light engine communicates to the second light engine using the light.

101. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 99, wherein the first light engine communicates to the second light engine using a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

102. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 99, wherein the first light engine communicates ongoing data to continually update the second light engine.

103. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 99, wherein the first light engine sends instructions to the second light engine to execute a stored lighting program.

104. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 103, wherein the instructions comprise clock data, such that the second light engine can execute the stored lighting program and the first light engine can execute the same stored lighting program or an additional stored lighting program in coordination with each other and the clock data.

105. (Original) A system of claim 35, wherein the conduit is configured to form a sign with lettering.

106. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 105, wherein the lighting system includes a plurality of light engines that are disposed throughout the sign to generate the light.

107. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 35, further comprising a plurality of second light engines spaced apart from each other along the length of the conduit.

108. (Original) A system of claim 105, wherein the sign is configured to resemble a conventional neon sign.

109. (Previously Presented) A lighting system, comprising:

at least one conduit lit by a first color-changing illumination from a first light engine having a first controller and at least one first LED; and

at least one element lit by a second color-changing illumination from a second light engine having a second controller and at least one second LED;

wherein the at least one conduit is placed in viewing proximity to the at least one element so as to produce coordinated layered illumination effects that represent the combination of the at least one conduit and the at least one element.

110. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 109, wherein a first color of the first color-changing illumination is the same as a second color of the second color-changing illumination.

111. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 109, wherein a first color of the first color-changing illumination is complementary to a second color of the second color-changing illumination.

112. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 111, wherein the first and second colors are generated in complementary color pairs.

113. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 112, wherein the complementary color pairs are selected from the group consisting of a red/green pair, a blue/orange pair, and a yellow/purple pair.

114. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 109, wherein the element comprises a lit background.

115. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 114, wherein the lit background is edge-lit by a linear array of light engines including the second light engine.

116. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 114, wherein the conduit is a sign, and the sign is lit in coordination with the lit background.

117. (Cancelled)

118. (Cancelled)

119. (Cancelled)

120. (Previously Presented) A method of lighting an assembly comprised of a plurality of conduits each having an at least partially transparent outer surface and each being configured to be connected together in a modular fashion to form the assembly, the method comprising:

generating light by a plurality of light engines spaced apart from each other within the assembly so that the generated light travels within and along a length of at least one conduit of the assembly; and

passing at least some of the generated light from at least one light engine of the plurality of light engines through the outer surface of the at least one conduit along the length of and around a perimeter of the at least one conduit;

wherein the at least one light engine includes at least one light source and at least one controller to control the at least one light source, such that the generated light has at least one controllable characteristic.

121. (Cancelled)

122. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein the characteristic is selected from the group consisting of a color, an intensity, a saturation, and a color temperature of the light.

123. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein the controller includes an interface.

124. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein the light source comprises at least one LED.

125. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein the light source comprises a plurality of LEDs of different colors.

126. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein the light source comprises LEDs configured such that the generated light from the light engine comprises different color temperatures of white light.

127. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein the light engine operates in a white color mode at some times and in a non-white color mode at other times.

128. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 125, wherein the generated light is white light produced by combining radiation generated by more than one of the plurality of LEDs, and each LED of the plurality of LEDs is selected from the group consisting of red, green, yellow, blue, amber, white, and orange LEDs.

129. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 126, wherein the a color temperature of the white light is adjusted by mixing different amounts of the radiation from the more than one of the plurality of LEDs.

130. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein the controller is a processor.

131. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein the assembly is configured such that the generated light passes substantially unobstructed from a first inner portion of one conduit of the assembly to an adjacent inner portion of an adjacent conduit of the assembly.

132. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one conduit of the plurality of conduits is made of an elastic material suitable for receiving and retransmitting the light.

133. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is a flexible conduit.

134. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is transparent.

135. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is semi-opaque.

136. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is translucent.

137. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is reflective.

138. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is refractive.

139. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is a transparent elastic material.

140. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is elastomeric vinyl acetate.

141. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a polymer, polyurethane, PVC material, rubber, plastic, a metal, and an alloy.

142. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of conduits is made from a hybrid of a plurality of materials.

143. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 120, wherein at least one of the plurality of

conduits is filled with a fluid.

144. (Original) A method of claim 143, wherein the fluid is a gas.

145. (Original) A method of claim 143, wherein the fluid is a liquid.

146. (Original) A method of claim 143, wherein the fluid is a vapor.

147. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 143, wherein the fluid transmits the generated light.

148. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 143, wherein the fluid refracts the generated light.

149. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 143, wherein the fluid contains particles that reflect the generated light.

150. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 143, wherein the fluid contains particles that refract the generated light.

151. (Previously Presented) A method of lighting an elastomeric conduit having an at least partially transparent outer surface, a first end, and a second end, the method comprising:

generating light by at least one light engine having a controller and a light source and being disposed proximate to at least one of the first end and the second end of the conduit, wherein the at least one light engine is configured such that the generated light travels within and along a length of the conduit; and

passing at least some of the generated light through the outer surface of the conduit along the length of and around a perimeter of the conduit;

wherein the light source comprises LEDs selected from the group consisting of red, green, blue, amber, white, orange, and UV LEDs;

wherein the light engine is an addressable light engine.

152. (Original) A method of claim 151, wherein the light source is configured in a linear configuration.

153. (Original) A method of claim 151, wherein the light source is configured as an array.

154. (Original) A method of claim 151, wherein the light source is configured in a curvilinear configuration.

155. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 151, wherein the light source includes a plurality of LEDs arranged into at least one group.

156. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein each LED of the at least one group generates radiation having a different wavelength than each other LED of the at least one group.

157. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the group includes a triad of LEDs.

158. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the group includes a quadruplet of LEDs.

159. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the group includes a quintuplet of LEDs.

160. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the group includes a sextuplet of LEDs.

161. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the plurality of LEDs is configured to fit a lighting fixture.

162. (Original) A method of claim 161, wherein the lighting fixture is configured to resemble at least one of an incandescent fixture, a halogen fixture and a fluorescent fixture.

163. (Previously Presented) A method of lighting an elastomeric conduit having an at least partially transparent outer surface, a first end, and a second end, the method comprising:

generating light by at least one light engine having a controller and a light source and being disposed proximate to at least one of the first end and the second end of the conduit, wherein the at least one light engine is configured such that the generated light travels within and along a length of the conduit; and

passing at least some of the generated light through the outer surface of the conduit along the length of and around a perimeter of the conduit;

wherein the light source comprises LEDs selected from the group consisting of red, green, blue, amber, white, orange, and UV LEDs; and

using an interface to deliver a control signal to the controller.

164. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 163, wherein the interface includes at least one of a wire, a cable, a network, a bus, a circuit, and a wireless interface.

165. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 163, wherein the interface comprises at least one of a user interface, a power-cycle-based interface, a general purpose computer interface, a keyboard, a mouse, a voice- or image-recognition interface, a programming interface, a software authoring tool interface, a light show player interface, a touchpad interface, a wireless interface, an interface for a conventional lighting system, an entertainment system interface, a communications system interface, a maintenance system interface, and a navigation system interface.

166. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the conduit is attached to a mounting surface in proximity to the light engine.

167. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 166, wherein the conduit is attached to the mounting surface by an attachment facility.

168. (Original) A method of claim 167, wherein the attachment facility is at least one of a fastener, a screw, a clip and a bolt.

169. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 167, wherein the attachment facility is a standoff mechanism for holding the conduit a fixed distance from the mounting surface.

170. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 166, wherein the mounting surface is a surface of a sign.

171. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the conduit is mounted on a mounting facility.

172. (Original) A method of claim 171, wherein the mounting facility serves as a light shield.

173. (Original) A method of claim 171, wherein the mounting facility rests on a light pipe.

174. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 173, wherein the light pipe collects the generated light and delivers the generated light into the conduit.

175. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the light engine is configured to resemble a halogen lamp.

176. (Original) A method of claim 175, wherein the light engine is an MR-16 fixture.

177. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 175, wherein the light engine is configured to be suitable for insertion into a conventional halogen socket.

178. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 174, wherein the light pipe guides the generated light into a receiving portion of the conduit, so that the conduit glows with a color of the generated light.

179. (Cancelled)

180. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the controller controls the light source such that a color of the light varies over time to produce a dynamic lighting effect.

181. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 180, wherein the controller includes a user interface.

182. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 180, wherein the controller includes a data facility.

183. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 180, wherein the controller includes a communication facility.

184. (Original) A method of claim 183, wherein the communication facility comprises a network.

185. (Original) A method of claim 183, wherein the communication facility comprises a wireless facility.

186. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 180, wherein the controller includes an algorithm facility.

187. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 180, wherein the controller is a general purpose computer.

188. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 180, wherein the controller is integrated with other system elements in an environment of the light engine.

189. (Original) A method of claim 188, wherein the other system elements are selected from the group consisting of a maintenance system, an entertainment system, a sound system, a navigation system, and a security system.

190. (Original) A method of claim 155, wherein the light engine includes a processor.

191. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 190, wherein the processor is selected from the group consisting of a microprocessor, a microcontroller, a circuit, an application specific integrated circuit, a microchip, a chip residing on a circuit board, a chipset, a circuit board, a programmable digital signal processor, a biological circuit, a programmable gate array, a programmable array logic device, a programmable logic device, a digital signal processor, an analog-to-digital converter, a digital-to-analog converter, discrete circuitry, passive analog components, active analog components, a resistor, a capacitor, an inductor, a transistor, an operational amplifiers, a discrete digital component, a shift register, and a latch.

192. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 180, wherein the controller includes a data facility for storing data for the light engine.

193. (Original) A method of claim 192, wherein the data facility comprises at least one of a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, an electronically erasable programmable read-only memory, a random access memory, a dynamic random access memory, a double data rate random access memory, a Rambus direct random access memory, and a flash memory.

194. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 192, wherein the data facility is at least one of a general purpose computer system, a RAM, a ROM, a hard disk memory, a diskette, a zip drive, a

jump drive, a database, a SQL database, a TCL database, an Oracle database, an Access database, a data facility of an entertainment system, a data facility of a maintenance system, a data facility of a safety system and a combination of more than one type of data facility.

195. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 192, wherein the data for the light engine resides in a plurality of systems.

196. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 195, wherein at least one first system of the plurality of systems is a safety system and at least one second system of the plurality of systems is an entertainment system.

197. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 195, wherein at least one first system of the plurality of systems is a lighting control system and at least one second system of the plurality of systems is an entertainment system.

198. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 183, wherein the communication facility comprises at least one of a wire-based facility, a wireless facility, a network, an interface card, a circuit, a router, a switch, a software interface, a wire, a cable, a connector, an RF facility, an IR facility, a serial port, a parallel port, a USB facility, a firewire facility, a copper wire, a modem, a Bluetooth facility, an 802.11 facility, a DSL modem, an antenna, a satellite communications facility, and a telecommunications facility.

199. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 180, wherein the controller is connected to the light source by a bus that provides two-way communication between the ~~control system~~ controller and the light source.

200. (Canceled)

201. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the conduit comprises modular sub-

elements that can be fitted together to form shapes.

202. (Original) A method of claim 155, wherein the sub-elements are selected from the group consisting of V-shaped elements, L-shaped elements, T-shaped elements, curved elements, and straight elements.

203. (Original) A method of claim 155, wherein the sub-elements are fitted together in combinations.

204. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the sub-elements are provided in a kit with the at least one light engine.

205. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein a user can shape the sub-elements into a desired shape.

206. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the at least one light engine includes a plurality of light engines.

207. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 206, wherein the plurality of light engines are provided with a communication facility.

208. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 206, wherein the plurality of light engines are configured so as to generate the generated light in synchronous fashion.

209. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 206, wherein the plurality of light engines change colors in concert.

210. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 151, wherein the at least one light engine includes two light engines respectively disposed proximate to the first end and the second end.

211. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 206, wherein the plurality of light engines communicate via a flexible facility selected from the group consisting of a flexible wire, a bus, and a cable.

212. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 211, wherein the flexible facility serves as a semi-rigid element for holding the conduit in a selected configuration.

213. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 155, wherein the conduit includes a semi-rigid element.

214. (Original) A method of claim 213, wherein the semi-rigid element is made of a material selected from the group consisting of a metal, a polymer, and a plastic.

215. (Original) A method of claim 213, wherein the semi-rigid element holds shape when bent.

216. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 206, wherein at least one light engine of the plurality of light engines has an optical receiver facility for receiving optical data and an optical modulator facility for modulating a portion of the generated light, so that a first light engine of the plurality of light engines communicates to at least one second light engine of the plurality of light engines.

217. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 216, wherein the first light engine communicates to the second light engine using the generated light.

218. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 206, wherein the first light engine communicates to the second light engine using a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

219. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 206, wherein the first light engine communicates

ongoing data to continually update the second light engine.

220. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 206, wherein the first light engine sends instructions to the second light engine to execute a stored lighting program.

221. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 220, wherein the instructions comprise clock data, such that the second light engine can execute the stored lighting program and the first light engine can execute the same stored lighting program or an additional stored lighting program in coordination with each other and the clock data.

222. (Original) A method of claim 155, wherein the conduit is configured to form a sign with lettering.

223. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 222, wherein the at least one light engine includes a plurality of light engines that are disposed throughout the sign to generate the generated light.

224. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 151, wherein light engines from a plurality of second light engines are spaced apart from each other along the length of the conduit.

225. (Original) A method of claim 222, wherein the sign is configured to resemble a conventional neon sign.

226. (Previously Presented) A method of lighting a system, the method comprising:

lighting at least one conduit by a first color-changing illumination from a first light engine having a first controller and at least one first LED; and

lighting at least one element by a second color-changing illumination from a second light engine having a second controller and at least one second LED, wherein the at least one conduit is placed in viewing proximity to the at least one element so as to produce coordinated layered

illumination effects that represent the combination of the at least one conduit and the at least one element.

227. (Cancelled)

228. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 226, wherein a first color of the first color-changing illumination is the same as a second color of the second color-changing illumination.

229. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 226, wherein a first color of the first color-changing illumination is complementary to a second color of the second color-changing illumination.

230. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 229, wherein the first and second colors are generated in complementary color pairs.

231. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 230, wherein the complementary color pairs are selected from the group consisting of a red/green pair, a blue/orange pair, and a yellow/purple pair.

232. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 226, wherein the at least one element comprises a lit background.

233. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 232, wherein the lit background is edge-lit by a linear array of light engines including the second light engine.

234. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 232, wherein the conduit is a sign, and the sign is lit in coordination with the lit background.

235. (Cancelled)

236. (Cancelled)

237. (Cancelled)

238. (Cancelled)